

CHAPTER IV.

COMMERCIAL VALUE OF THE DEEP RIVER COALFIELD.

In any inquiry into the availability of a coalfield for practical mining it is necessary to review the commercial relations of the district as compared with other competitive coalfields; to consider well the cost of mining and transportation, the quality of the coal and its quantity and the uses to which it seems best adapted. This chapter will be devoted to a discussion of these subjects and to a brief statement of the conclusions arrived at concerning the principal obstacles presented by this coalfield and the methods that should be pursued in developing it.

Avenues to Market.—The location of this coalfield constitutes the sole and preëminent advantage it has over other competitors in supplying the markets of Central and Eastern North Carolina and South Carolina. As regards the Atlantic coast markets it stands at a decided disadvantage to the Richmond field being 150 miles, while the latter is only 15 to 20 miles from tide-water.

For supplying the markets of North and South Carolina it has great advantages over the Tennessee and Pocahontas (Va.) coalfields, but has little if any advantage over the Richmond basin except for the inland markets. The following tables shows the distances in miles from each of these coalfields to the principal points in North Carolina and to a few points outside the State.

Table showing Distances in Miles from Coalfields to Markets.

TOWNS AND CITIES.	Deep River Coal.	Tennessee Coal.	Pocahontas, Va., Coal.	Richmond, Va., Coal.
Lynchburg, Va.,	165	475	172	111
Danville, Va.,	100	410	237	128
Greensboro, N. C.,	51	361	286	176
Salisbury, N. C.,	100	312	335	225
Charlotte, N. C.,	140	356	379	269
Spartanburg, S. C.,	215	431	454	344
Columbia, S. C.,	246	462	485	375
Durham, N. C.,	68	416	341	223
Raleigh, N. C.,	52	442	367	197
Weldon, N. C.,	149	356	100
Fayetteville, N. C.,	46	458	383	274
Wilmington, N. C.,	150	Ocean.
Statesville, N. C.,	125	287	360	250